

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 45, and 47 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows (see the accompanying marked-up claims):

1. (Amended) A composition comprising:

- (a) (i) a quaternary ammonium biocide having the formula



- (ii) a polymeric quaternary ammonium biocide, or

- (iii) a mixture thereof; and

- (b) (i) a ketone acid or salt thereof,

- (ii) an aromatic carboxylic acid or a salt thereof, or

- (iii) a mixture thereof,

wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently unsubstituted or hydroxy substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $-(CH_2CH_2O)_mCH_2CH_2OH$, or $-(CH_2CHCH_3O)_mCH_2CHCH_3OH$ where m is 1 to 10; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl, ethylbenzyl, methylnaphthyl, or linear or branched C_1 - C_{22} alkyl; R^4 is $-R^5(O)_n(C_6H_4)R^6$ where n is 0 or 1; R^5 is a substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_8 alkyl or C_1 - C_8 alkoxyalkyl; R^6 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched C_1 - C_{12} alkyl; and X^- is an anion.

45. (Amended) A method of inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on a

substrate comprising applying an effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to the substrate.